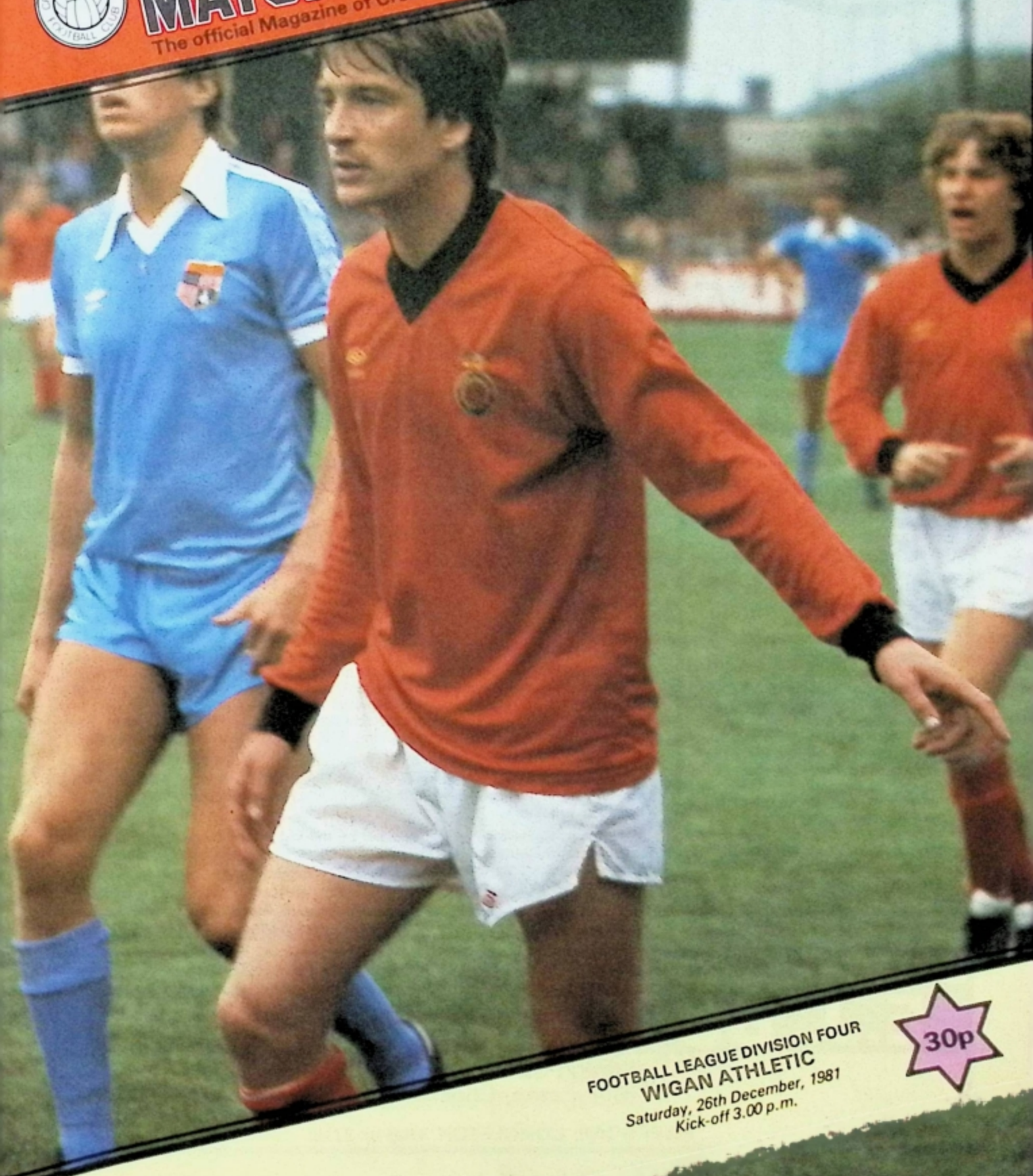




ALEX MATCH DAY MAG

The official Magazine of Crewe Alexandra



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
Saturday, 26th December, 1981
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

30p

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Edited by Harold Finch.

CLUB NEWS



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CREWE ALEXANDRA F.C. EXTEND TO ALL OFFICIALS, PLAYERS, STAFF, AND SUPPORTERS THE SEASONS GREETINGS AND THE WISH FOR A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN 1982.

The traditional game on Christmas Day which used to have an 11am start has departed from the football scene. It used to be said that it provided a good excuse for the wife to get the husband out of the way for a little while while she carried on with the preparation of the Festive Lunch.

For many a youngster it was probably one of the few occasions that they would be taken to a game and there were those who actually can trace their following of a particular club from such a game. However, from the players point of view and particularly for the visitors it was an occasion, where if they had a young family themselves their hearts were probably in a different place than the field of play.

Changes come along and even the games which were so very recently staged on New Year's Day in England seem to have been deleted from the schedule. The holidays are indeed becoming a time when all people, players and supporters alike can share together.

So far as home fixtures go, this will be the last of the current year so we are hoping that the outcome will be one of success and give us the points to build a more secure position for the remainder of the season.

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FOCUS ON FOUR

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR Up to and including Saturday, 5th December, 1987

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colchester	18	13	1	4	43	17	40
Sheff Wed	18	12	4	2	33	13	40
Barnet	17	12	2	3	38	19	38
Bury	18	11	3	4	42	23	35
Peterborough	18	11	3	4	32	18	35
Bournemouth	18	10	6	2	22	10	36
Wigan	18	9	6	3	27	18	33
Port Vale	18	8	5	5	23	20	29
Torquay	18	8	4	6	23	19	28
Stockport	18	7	5	6	37	26	26
Hartlepool	18	7	3	8	24	24	24
Aldershot	18	6	4	8	24	28	22
Hull	18	6	3	9	24	34	21
Darlington	18	5	5	8	29	32	20
Hereford	18	4	8	6	17	22	20
York	18	3	10	5	24	30	19
Rochdale	18	5	4	9	25	36	19
Tranmere	18	4	6	8	16	25	18
Manfield	18	4	5	9	24	33	17
Halifax	18	3	6	9	17	32	15
Southport	18	2	5	10	17	33	14
Crewe	18	4	1	13	12	33	13
Northampton	18	2	5	12	20	41	11

Season 1981/82 will most probably go down as one of the most critical seasons ever for clubs in this division. From the high hopes that clubs had when it got under way after the extra long summer break apart from a few who have both through the turnstiles kept attracting quite good crowds and through their off the field activities continued to bring in considerable cash injections.

For the majority of clubs it has been a spell of constantly watching exactly how the money received is actually spent and one thing they would not have legislated for is the distinct possibility of several games being postponed in a brief period of time at a time when you are always fighting to maintain attendances. It is at times such as these that the worries of the smaller clubs are tested to their maximum. Underground heating is one very obvious answer but unless such a scheme could be done with the cash needed supplied by a sponsor then the possibility of seeing such a protected pitch in our Division is more likely to remain a dream rather than become a reality.

The other alternative is for all grounds to be fitted with Omni turf such as that done at Loftus Road during last summer but here again financial backing is the key to it and there seems to be no doubt that Queens Park Rangers have a definite advantage when they are on their own particular surface.

York City are another club to have dispensed with the services of their current manager, and by the time these notes are read, that faced with an F.A. Cup replay at Altrincham they could well be out of that competition as well. Bournemouth also had to come from behind in their tie

with Dorchester with leading scorer Funnell getting the equaliser. They will no doubt have learned a lot from that first game and will aim to complete the task in the home replay. The pools panel favoured draws from quite a number of games including our own, I wonder just how right their opinions proved to be. In the past on the Crewe results in particular they have not done so very well.

APPEARANCES SEASON 1981/82

	League	L.C.	F.A.	Sub
DANNY BOWERS	13	1	1	1
IAN CALLAGHAN	6	—	1	—
COLIN CHESTERS	9	1	—	5
NEIL GRIFFITHS	14	1	1	3
STEPHEN HANLON	10	2	—	—
SEAN HASLEGRAVE	15	2	1	—
PETER HENDERSON	6	—	—	1
DUNCAN HEATH	4	1	—	1
PAUL KEIGHLEY	12	1	—	—
KEVIN LEWIS	18	2	1	—
KEN MULHEARN	18	2	1	—
MARK PALIOS	17	2	1	—
ALAN RICKETTS	11	2	1	2
NEIL SALATHIEL	15	2	1	1
BOB SCOTT	18	2	1	—
PHIL WILLIAMS	12	1	1	—

Scorers	League	L.C.	F.A.
COLIN CHESTERS	2	—	—
SEAN HASLEGRAVE	1	—	—
MARK PALIOS	5	—	—
ALAN RICKETTS	1	1	—
BOB SCOTT	2	—	1
OPPONENTS	1	—	—

THIS SPACE TO LET.
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WELCOME TO WIGAN ATHLETIC



FRONT ROW: Fred Eyre (Asst. Manager), Kevin Sheldon, Mark Wignall, David Glenn, Larry Lloyd (Manager), Steve McAdam, John McMahon, Jeff Wright, Kenny Banks (Trainer/Coach). **BACK ROW:** Clive Evans, Les Bradd, Neil Davids, Graham Barrow, John Brown, Bob Ward, Colin Methven, Mike Quinn, Peter Houghton, Alex, Cobbley.

Spotlight on the Visitors

Towards the end of last season Larry Lloyd came as Player Manager of the side from Nottingham Forest and spent the last few weeks of the season making his plans for this season's campaign with one aim in mind — promotion. He has not made a considerable number of signings but has nevertheless made some significant ones. One of his recent acquisitions was **ROY TUNKS** a goalkeeper with Preston North End where he had made over 400 first team appearances during his career, **DAVID GLENN** was with the club last season but his first team outings were limited and mainly in the forward line. **JOHN McMAHON** was a regular in the Crewe line up after a fine career with Preston North End. A very stylish full back who can also score invaluable goals. **MARK WIGNALL** was born in Preston but Wigan Athletic has been his only club. **LES BRADD**, another close season recruit after being released by Stockport County. He is a very adaptable player for he is equally at home in the heart of the defence or up in the forward line where he can be a very dangerous marksman. **COLIN METHVEN** spent part of his career with East Fife where he played over 150 times for them and since coming south to Wigan, is now approaching the 100 appearance mark. **KEVIN SHELDON**, popularly known as Bomber, was released by Stoke City at the end of last season. He was unfortunate in sustaining an injury when with Stoke but was determined to get back into first team football at the first opportunity. **GEOFF BARROW** was recruited from Alliance Premier League side Altrincham and has quickly settled into the league scene. **MIKE QUINN** hails from Liverpool and has now topped the half century of first team appearances for the club. **PETER HOUGHTON** also hails from Liverpool and has played all his league football with Wigan, a consistent scorer for the club. **CLIVE EVANS** came this season from Tranmere Rovers and has quickly established a regular spot. **JEFF WRIGHT** has now played in over 100 first team games for the club in a variety of positions. **JIMMY WESTON** was signed from Torquay United but is out of the side at the present time through injury.

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SPORTS QUIZ

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ IN THE SCUNTHORPE PROGRAMME

1. Crewe entertained Hartlepool's Utd in a second round tie after beating Nuneaton away.
2. Ray Hankin joined Arsenal from Vancouver Whitecaps.
3. The motif for the England World Cup promotions will be — Bulldog Bobby.
4. Jayne Torvill was elected as sportswoman of the year.
5. Sebastian Coe is world record holder at 800 and 1000 metres and 1 mile.
6. Cyprus has the worst defensive record in the World Cup qualifying competition.

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

1. Where did Peter Leigh play his last League game for Crewe.
2. What is the connection between Crewe, Scunthorpe, Brighton and Liverpool.
3. Who scored Crewe's goals in that 13-2 defeat at White Hart Lane.
4. Who scored the last hat-trick for Crewe and who was it against.
5. Who plays at Home Park.
6. If you were at the Manor Ground — who would you be watching.

Answers on a postcard please to the Editor, c/o Crewe Alexandra F.A.

Records supplied by
P. CULEY, SPIN INN, Heath Street, Crewe.

AS IT HAPPENED

BY ROY GREER *Crewe Chronicle*

30 YEARS AGO.....The new spirit at Gresty Road since the arrival of Harry Catterick as player manager synchronised with the Christmas season of good fellowship and cheer. The biggest Gresty Road crowd of the season of 6,500 saw Crewe defeat Gateshead 4-2 with goals from Frank Mitchison, Catterick (2) and Jack Basford. On Christmas morning Crewe were involved in an entertaining game at Edgeley Park, but this time they lost 4-2. Jimmy McGuigan, who joined Crewe from Stockport, scored both the Alex goals against his former club. Crewe team for the two games was: Elson; Briggs, Young; Walton, Lees, Meaney; McGuigan, Mitchison, Catterick, Basford, Smith.

20 YEARS AGO.....An own goal in the dying seconds by centre half Eric Barnes, who had played a great part in a fine Crewe defence, saw Alexandra unluckily lose 4-3 before a 10,414 crowd at Millwall. Crewe had fought back from 3-1 down to level at 3-3. Peter Burridge bagged a hat-trick for the home side and Crewe scorers were Frank Lord (2) and Felix Reilly. Millwall: Davies, Gilchrist, P. Brady; Obeney, R. Brady, Anderson; Broadfoot, Townsend, Jones, Burridge, McQuade, Crewe; Williamson; McGill, Campbell; Keery, Barnes, Tighe; Haydock, Wheatley, Lord, Reilly, Smith. Crewe boss Jimmy McGuigan transfer listed midfielder player Jimmy Shepherd.

10 YEARS AGO.....Crewe had three players booked as they lost 1-0 to top placed Brentford at Griffin Park on Boxing Day. Crewe offenders were Peter Higgins, Doug Rosser and Keith East. Brentford skipper Bobby Ross was also cautioned. Crewe huddled in defence in the first half but they came out fighting after John O'Mara had headed his 17th goal of the season in the 65th minute. There were many queasy moments for the largest League crowd at Brentford in 12 years (18,240) but nothing really troubled goalkeeper Gordon Phillips. The Brentford game contrasted starkly with the Gresty Road average for the season of 2,568.

AROUND & ABOUT

By Editor Harold Finch

Not so very many years ago when any game was postponed it produced a pile of unsold and in the main, unwanted programmes and in due course when the game had been re-arranged and the date arrived a new publication would be available to the prospective purchaser. That same situation does not arise nowadays for quite honestly no club can afford to keep that old method in operation. Some clubs do however update the original programme with a single sheet insert and in other cases use an additional four page wrap around as its cover.

For the supporter who just wants his matchday programme the issue I have mentioned above is quite adequate and presents little or no problems but to the purist type of collector the date shown on the front of his programme will probably have no bearing whatsoever on the actual date the game was played on and must in consequence keep a detailed record of any such changes.

Our idea of opening the programme shop specially, but in the Alexandra Club on Tuesday, 8th December proved to be a successful venture and despite the fact that it turned out to be a particularly cold evening the fact that our neighbouring clubs Port Vale and Stockport County gave it a mention in their publications attracted several collectors from those clubs in addition to our own regular band who enjoy a good browse around. It now seems quite possible that we shall be having another of these evenings in the early part of 1982 but we will let you know in good time.

Visitors for our Christmas fixture this season are Wigan and in some ways it is unfortunate that there is no rail service operating today but judging by previous games between the clubs when they have brought good support no doubt they will have made alternative arrangements, providing of course that road conditions are reasonable. Now that they are out of both competitions they will be looking for one of the four promotion spots next May, that is an aim they really have set their heart on.



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GAME AT
TORQUAY on January 9th

CREWE

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M6 south then M5 to Exeter, junction with A30
A30 to junction with A360
A360 to Torquay

6 miles
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241 miles

Entering Torquay on the A360, go left along Hale Road (A3022) continuing along Westhill Road and onto Walbro Road. The football ground is on your right on Walbro Road.



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STOKE CITY

Menacing Threat in the Potteries

by Derek Henderson

To many folk, Stoke City means Stanley Matthews, a grimy area of industrial England, and a team which occasionally comes up with a shock result.

But unobtrusively, a revolution has been going on at the Victoria Ground. It started under Alan Durban and it is continuing under the ex-Wolves No 2 Richie Barker.

Stoke City, brimming with confidence and up-and-coming players of immense promise, are poised to make a big breakthrough. Whether they will be able to manage it, is a source of intense interest to those in the First Division scene and to more discerning followers of what goes on at top level in our game.

Already this season, Stoke's results are more than coincidence. They have collected points in places where not so long ago they would have received an unceremonious drubbing — Arsenal and Aston Villa where they picked up four.

Barker inherited some fine players, including the tall, commanding centre-forward Lee Chapman who was at one time despatched on loan to Plymouth to help their goalscoring intentions.

Chapman is now knocking on the England Senior door, and so is Adrian Heath, a spritely young winger who has already impressed at Under-21 level and whom Neville Briggs, Stoke's much-travelled chief scout, rates as being one of the best young prospects in England today.

Some of Stoke's buys which have been relatively modest in today's ridiculous transfer market, have helped to bring stability to the team, and none more so than Ray Evans, picked up for £120,000m from Fulham and a right back of uncompromising nature.

The acquisition of Dutchman Loek Orsem from AZ Sportlaan was a smart move, which helped to placate the fans who were dismayed when the highly-talented Garth Crooks was snapped up by Tottenham, and so was the capture of Paul Maguire from Shrewsbury.



Lee Chapman

Another little light on the horizon emerged in the shape of slightly-built Peter Griffiths, a forward of undoubted skill who was plucked from the unlikely area of North Devon. Griffiths was playing Western League football for Bideford when Stoke gave him his big chance last November.

He plunged straight from the Western League into First Division football, scored a goal against Coventry, made 10 appearances altogether and this season has been an integral part of their side.

Much is expected of Peter Fox, a goalkeeper who found a hard time making eyes turn in his direction at Sheffield Wednesday, but has steadily forged towards England standard since he has been at the Victoria Ground.

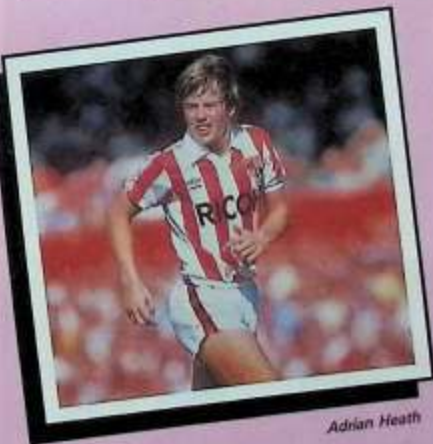
And Brendan O'Callaghan, a centre-half of some potential, has taken over the mantle held for so many years by Denis Smith, a man who broke more bones than any other in an unlucky career plagued with injury, but who defied his luck to give great service to the club.

Barker has Mike Doyle's immense experience to inspire the team on the field and all in all there now seems a very possibility that Stoke will start winning the big honours which have eluded them so often.

The highest they have ever finished in Division 1 was fourth just after the war and the Football League Cup in 1972 was really their only major honour.

In this they beat Chelsea to reap some reward for almost 100 years of League football, for they can boast they are the second oldest League club of all.

Matthews' connections with Stoke are well documented and naturally they still talk about him with reverence. But the NEW Stoke are fast emerging in their own right and this is a source of satisfaction to the patient and loyal fans of the Potteries.



Adrian Heath

What's on Motson?



Having explained the format for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, BBC commentator John Motson now turns his attention to the 24 teams who will be competing. He starts with the host nation, Spain, and explains why their philosophy has changed when it comes to team selection.....

Not Relying So Much on Real and Barcelona

The life of Jose Santamaria, the manager of Spain, has run roughly parallel with the history of the World Cup. He was born in Montevideo just before his native Uruguay won the first tournament in 1930; he was a young player on the fringe of the national squad when they won the cup for the second time in 1950; he completed the remarkable double of playing for Uruguay in the 1954 finals in Switzerland, then for his adopted country Spain in Chile in 1962; and when his illustrious playing career at Real Madrid ended, he watched as a club coach while Spain failed in one World Cup after another.

Next summer, Santamaria has a chance to put that right. He will be cast in the role of his country's football Messiah, very much the way Helmut Schon was in West Germany in 1974, and Cesar Luis Menotti found himself in Argentina in 1978. They delivered the prize their country sought — but can Santamaria do the same?

Spain have never done better in the World Cup than fourth place in 1950. At club level, Real Madrid and Barcelona have lifted European trophies by importing expensive talent from overseas, but the single major

honour won by the national team was the European Nations Cup in 1964.

Significantly, those finals took place in Madrid. Home advantage has proved an enormous plus factor when it comes to the fiery, festive atmosphere of a World Cup, but will it be enough to push Spain further next summer than they have ever been before?

Their first-ever victory at Wembley last March, followed by an arduous summer tour of Central and South America, has enabled Santamaria to assemble a settled squad at least as promising as anything Spain has had before. Certainly they appear a better balanced team than the one which played so fitfully in Argentina under Ladislao Kubala, the old manager who Santamaria succeeded after the 1980 European Championship.

One of the recurring difficulties for the Spanish manager has been to reconcile and amalgamate the various regional factions in the country. The inbred rivalry between the "Madridistas" and "Catalans" of Real and Barcelona has not always made for unification on or off the field, and it is maybe significant that Santamaria has preferred to base at least half his squad on players from the north of the country — notably on last season's league champions — Real Sociedad from San Sebastian.

It is from here that Spain draw their

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goalkeeper and captain, Luis Arconada; their best midfield player, Jesus Zamora; and their tall centre forward, Jesus Satrustegui. Sociedad's full back, Genaro Celayeta, and midfield man, Miguel Alonso, are also in the current squad.

Still in the north, Santamaria has turned to the Sporting Club of Gijon for a further four players. These are full back Cundi, centre backs Maceda and Jimenez, and the improving right-sided midfield player, Joaquin, who did so well against England at Wembley.

So when you consider that the first choice left back, Rafael Gordillo, comes from Seville in the south, and that stopper Tendillo plays for Valencia in the east, just who does Santamaria need from the fashionable clubs in Madrid and Barcelona?

From the latter he will definitely call up the tall young sweeper, Jose Alesanco, but he too is of Basque origin, having originally played for Bilbao. And the stocky midfield player Victor, who marked Kevin Keegan so tightly at Wembley, has joined Barcelona only this season, from Zaragoza.

Turning to the capital, Santamaria will probably want as many players from Atletico Madrid, the favourite club of the bourgeois, as from the people's shrine, the Bernabeu Stadium of Real. The Atletico trio of Quique (midfield) and wingers Marcos and Rubio, have all been in his plans.

But the manager cannot shake off his Real roots quite as easily as that. One modern member of the defence Santamaria used to hold together, full back Jose Camacho, is a near certainty for the World Cup. And while Real's captain and centre forward, Santillana, will have to fight Satrustegui for his position, there is little doubt that the brilliant attacker Juanito holds the key to Spain's chances next summer more than any other individual.

Juanito will be asked to do for Spain what Mario Kempes did for Argentina four years ago — simply to produce his match-winning qualities at the appointed time and to

become a national hero as his country launch their most determined assault on the World Cup.

The wiry Real Madrid forward is a temperamental character, having already served one long UEFA suspension for accosting a referee after a European Cup tie. But at his most controlled, he is one of the most devastating forwards in Europe, able to turn and punish the best defences with his blistering pace, his close control and deadly finishing.

Santamaria likes to use Juanito just behind the two main strikers, as the most advanced midfield attacker in a 4-4-2 formation. Although he tends to tire late in a game and is frequently substituted, Juanito by then has often done considerable damage.



THE F.I.F.A. WORLD CUP

Spain will play their first round matches in Valencia, where a partisan crowd will almost definitely cheer them through. Then, playing their second round games in one of the big stadiums in Madrid or Barcelona, they will seize on every advantage going to try and equal their best ever World Cup performance.

I expect to see the red shirts and blue shorts of the host nation in the semi-finals, but they may then find that the opposition is too powerful for them. The quality of that opposition is something we shall be looking at in the next two issues of "On Target", when I shall be featuring Argentina and Brazil.

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MANCHESTER CITY



Vying with United for Big Spending

It is generally acknowledged that Manchester City went into the red to acquire their old player Asa Hartford to assist with the midfield foraging at Maine Road. For it followed one of soccer's biggest outlays in a game used to hearing about million-pound moves.

For Manager John Bond went into the market in as flamboyant a way as his predecessor Malcolm Allison, to lure the talented Trevor Francis away from Nottingham Forest in a move to combat the headline-catching exploits of neighbour Ron Atkinson of Manchester United and keep up with the Joneses in the big city race for honours.

But fate had an unkindly blow for Bond and for Francis in the shape of a nasty injury which promptly removed the player from the scene for a few weeks, so holding up City's bid to recover from an average start to the new season.

Bond, however, is used to ups and downs and adversity of this nature, having experienced plenty of them at Norwich and Bournemouth. And it didn't alter the overall plan to turn City into a force capable of the big triumph — bringing the League championship back to Maine Road for the first time since the Mercer-Allison era.

Bond's short-term task when he joined City in a welter of publicity last season was plainly survival. He achieved much more than that, however.

Not only did he steer them safely away from the bottom position which they occupied on the day of his arrival, but inspired to a handsome bonus — an appearance in the F.A. Cup final.

City, with a little luck, would have won its first time out against Spurs, but went under in a replay.

But pride had been restored to the City stragglers. However, the new season presented, as the Americans say, an entirely different ball-game.

Bond is not a sentimentalist in the sense that he will find a place for his old faithfuls of last season if it means holding up progress. This is why he agreed to part with long-serving Tommy Booth to Preston and young Steve Mackenzie to West Bromwich Albion.

With Francis's acceleration and goal-plundering ability, and the wise head of Hartford — veteran of many top games at club and international level — Bond sees the first steps towards a Manchester City which can match the best week by week.

He has linked up again with his son Kevin who had a spell in the States before signing up at Maine Road and this probably isn't the end of Bond's spending, even though the bank manager must be getting a little perplexed over the club's excursions into the market.

City's chairman Peter Swales is a strong man who



Tommy Hutchison

knows what he wants and isn't afraid to go out and get it. He will not rest until City are one of the best teams in England again, and Bond shares his ambition in a city where football is more a way of life than just a weekend interest.

Spurring them on will be the ever-present rivalry with United which always acts as a filip at any time. The fact that United are managed by another extrovert in Atkinson is ample food for the football writers who can gleefully play one off against the other.

Both know that neither must get the upper hand in the battle of the headlines, just as much as they mustn't let their rivals get clear away in the League table or in any Cup runs.

Bond has always spoken his mind — once or twice even to the embarrassment of his own chairman! But he has a way with players — the team's deeds last season bear testimony to this fact.

It may take a little while — but City are on the march.....



Worldwide

On Target's **JOHN KING** previews

The EUROPEAN PACE SETTERS

With the season now well into its second month in most European countries the league tables are now beginning to sort themselves out a bit, and we are able to get a clearer idea of the early pace-setters. In many cases it's the 'mixture as before' with the perennial names firmly fixed at the top of the table, but there are, as ever, one or two surprises.

Probably the biggest surprises are in Poland and France where unfancied clubs are currently leading the way. In Poland, where the football programme continued to give some relief to the country's political troubles, newly promoted Pogon are the early leaders, with Gornik, who finished last season in twelfth place, hot on their heels. Last season's champions Widzew of Lodz are in third place, whilst Pogon have to look back to 1926 for their last success. Gornik, however, have won the title on 10 occasions, including a run of five successive wins between 1963 and 1967.

In France it is unfancied Sochaux who have set the early pace. Sponsored by the Peugeot car company, the 'Lions' of Sochaux won the French Championship twice and the Cup once in the 1930's but since that time major success has evaded them. In 1979-80, however, they finished runners-up to Nantes, a performance which gave them a place in last season's UEFA Cup in which they performed well to reach the semi-final where they lost 4-3 on aggregate to AZ67 Alkmaar of Holland. In earlier rounds they had disposed of Servette of Switzerland, Boavista of Portugal, Eintracht Frankfurt of West Germany, and Switzerland's Grasshoppers Zurich.

On the domestic front they were not as successful. They finished a disappointing 14th in the League and were knocked out of the Cup by AC Monaco in the 4th Round. During the summer Manager Pierre Mosca made one or two changes with forward Salih Durkalic joining

Second Division Mulhouse and goalkeeper Jean-Claude Hagenback moving to Le Havre. In their place Mosca bought French international centre-forward Jacques Zimako from champions St. Etienne and the Yugoslavian international defender Some Luketin from Hajduk Split.

The club's success so far this season has been built on a solid defence in which goalkeeper Albert Rust has been outstanding. They currently lead the table with 16 points from 11 games ahead of Bordeaux, Monaco and last season's champions St. Etienne.

Elsewhere in Europe for the most part it's the favourites who lead the field. West Germany's Bayern Munich have already served notice that they have no intention of being easily dislodged from the champions' throne which they have occupied for the last two years. They have a splendid record of five championships in the past ten years, during which time they have three times won the European Cup in addition to reaching the semi-final stages of the same competition last season and the UEFA Cup the season before. The closest challenges at the time of writing are Cologne, Hamburg and Borussia Moenchengladbach.

In Russia, where they have only five more games to play, Dynamo Kiev have the championship as good as won for the second year running. They have a seven point lead over Moscow Spartak with Dynamo Tbilisi a further six points behind that. So once again they seem set for a comfortable win which will put them within one win of Moscow Dynamo's eleven championships.

At the other end of things there has been a nasty shock for last season's Green runners-up AEK Athens who find themselves very firmly anchored at the bottom of the table with just two points.



AUSTRIA	P	W	D	L	Pts	ITALY					
Austria Vienna (1)	7	5	1	1	11	Juventus (1)	3	3	0	0	6
Rapid Vienna (3)	7	3	3	1	9	AS Roma (2)	3	1	2	0	4
Salzburg (9)	7	3	2	2	8	Torino (9)	3	2	0	1	4
BELGIUM						POLAND					
RSC Anderlecht (1)	6	4	1	1	9	Pogon (-)	9	6	1	2	13
Standard Liege (3)	6	3	3	0	9	Gornik (12)	9	5	2	2	12
FC Liege (12)	6	4	0	2	8	Widzew (1)	9	4	4	1	12
BULGARIA						PORTUGAL					
Trakia (3)	6	4	1	1	9	Sporting Lisbon (3)	6	5	1	0	11
Chernomore (6)	6	4	1	1	9	FC Porto (2)	6	5	1	0	11
Lokomotiv Sofia (9)	6	4	0	2	8	Benfica (1)	6	4	0	2	8
EAST GERMANY						RUMANIA					
CZ Jena (2)	6	4	2	0	10	Dinamo Bucharest (2)	7	5	1	1	11
Magdeburg (3)	6	4	2	0	10	Univ. Craiova (1)	6	5	0	1	10
Dynamo Berlin (1)	6	4	1	1	9	Corvinul Huned (6)	7	4	1	2	9
FRANCE						SWITZERLAND					
Sochaux (14)	11	6	4	1	16	Servette (7)	7	7	0	0	14
Bordeaux (3)	11	5	5	1	15	Young Boys Berne (4)	7	4	2	1	10
Monaco (4)	11	6	2	3	14	FC Basle (6)	7	4	2	1	10
GREECE						USSR					
Panathinaikos (5)	4	2	2	0	6	Dynamo Kiev (1)	29	20	8	1	48
Serres (8)	4	2	2	0	6	Spartak Moscow (2)	29	18	5	6	41
Paok (4)	4	2	2	0	6	Dynamo Tbilisi (4)	29	13	9	7	35
HOLLAND						WEST GERMANY					
Ajax (2)	8	6	1	1	13	Bayern Munich (1)	8	6	0	2	12
PSV Eindhoven (5)	8	6	0	2	12	Cologne (8)	8	5	1	2	11
Go Ahead (12)	8	5	1	2	11	Hamburg (2)	8	4	2	2	10
HUNGARY						YUGOSLAVIA					
Ujpest Dozsa (8)	7	4	2	1	10	Dinamo Zagreb (5)	10	4	5	1	13
Honved (5)	7	4	2	1	10	Partizan Belgrade (8)	10	5	3	2	13
Csepel (12)	7	4	2	1	10	Rijeka (7)	10	5	3	2	13

(Last season's final position in brackets).



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IS THAT A FACT?...

By John King

An occasional 'On Target' series which will bring to your attention some of the lesser known facts about Association Football. Some of them important to the history of the game, some of them amusing, some of them unlikely — but all of them true.

OH BROTHER!...

Four sets of twin brothers have been seen in action for the same side in Football League matches since the Second World War. They are Alfred and John Willie Stephens (Swindon Town), David and Peter Jackson (with no less than 3 clubs — Wrexham, Tranmere Rovers and Bradford City), Ian and Roger Morgan (Q.P.R.), and Paul and Ron Fletcher (also with 3 clubs — Chester, Luton Town and Manchester City).

Liam Brady was the third of three brothers to play in the Football League when he joined Arsenal. Brothers Ray and Pat were previously both on Millwall's books.

On October 22nd 1955 the Rowley brothers, Jack and Arthur, both scored their 200th League goal on the same day in away games in the Second Division. Younger brother Arthur scored for Leicester City at Fulham to beat older brother Jack who scored for Plymouth Argyle at Barnsley to the milestone by 12 minutes.

On three occasions Wales fielded two pairs of brothers in the same full international side. The brothers concerned were John and Mel Charles and Ivor and Len Allchurch.

On September 28th 1970 two brothers came on as substitutes for the opposing teams in a Football League match. In a Second Division game Martin Busby came on as Queens Park Rangers' sub. Whilst brother Vic did the same thing for Luton Town.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING...

Stockport County are the only League club to have fielded a father and son in the same line-up for a Football League match. It happened at Edgeley Park on May 5th 1951 when father Alec Herd and son David both played for Stockport against Hartlepool United. Stockport won the match 2-0, and David, who later played for Arsenal, Man. United and Stoke City, obliged by scoring one of the goals.

There have been two instances of an uncle and nephew playing together in League matches. Clifford and Fred Price did so for Southampton in 1924-25, and Billy Charlton and his nephew Jim Maidment for Newport County in the 1920's.

The Milburn family of Ashington have over the years contributed more than most to the Football League in terms of quality players. The careers of brothers George (Chesterfield and Leeds United), Jack (Leeds United), Jim (Leeds United and Bradford) and Stanley (Chesterfield, Leicester City and Rochdale) spanned a total period of 27 years from 1928-29 when George made his debut for Leeds to 1965 when Stanley played his last game for Rochdale.

George and Jack provided Leeds with their two full-backs over a period of eight years and a fifth member of the family, brother-in-law Jim Potts was in goal. So in all Leeds were able to call upon the services of at least one member of the family for a period of 24 years.

Nor does the family's contribution end there for the brothers had a cousin named Jackie Milburn who won 13 England international caps and scored 178 League goals for Newcastle United between 1946 and 1967.

And after Jackie still the saga continued because he was followed by his two nephews Bobby and Jack Charlton whose careers were not exactly uneventful. Bobby made 606 League appearances for Manchester United, scored 198 League goals, won 106 full international caps for England and scored a record 49 goals in internationals. Jack clocked up 629 League appearances for Leeds United and won 35 full international

caps.

In all the seven members of the amazing Milburn/Charlton family (excluding brother-in-law Jim Potts) managed to total 3127 League appearances, and 154 England full international appearances between them. Not a bad effort!!!

The Thompson family provide the only recorded instance of a father and two sons all appearing as goalkeepers in the Football League. Father George was with York City and Southampton, whilst George junior played for Preston and Carlisle and Desmond for Scunthorpe United and York City.

COMINGS AND GOINGS...

James Commings was appointed manager of Southport in February 1929. He moved to a similar position at Barrow in November 1930, returned to Southport in March 1933, and was back again with Barrow in June 1945.

Bill Lambton was Leeds United's trainer at the beginning of the 1958-59 season and was then appointed manager in December. He resigned the following March, joined Scunthorpe United as Trainer/Coach the same month, and was promoted to Manager in April.

The first four, five, six and seven figure transfer fees between British clubs were:-

£1,000 — Alf Common, Sunderland to Middlesbrough 1905.

£10,890 — David Jack, Bolton Wds to Arsenal, 1928.

£10,000 — Alan Ball, Blackpool to Everton, 1966.

£1,000,000 — Trevor Francis, Birmingham C. to Nottingham Forest, 1979.

When John Charles joined Juventus from Leeds United for a fee of £85,000 in 1956-57 he became the first British player to be transferred to a foreign club. The fee was also at that time a new record fee for a British player. After scoring 83 goals in 155 appearances for the Italian club Charles returned to Leeds in August 1962, but three months later he was back in Italy having signed for AS Roma for £70,000. In August 1963 Cardiff City brought him home again and he finished his career as player/manager with Hereford United.

Jimmy Greenhoff has the rare distinction of having been transferred in the middle of a Cup Final. He played for Leeds United in the First Leg of the Fairs Cup Final against Ferencváros of Hungary in August 1968, but by the time the second leg was played he had become a Birmingham City player.

When Plymouth Argyle were interested in signing Welsh International Moses 'Dan' Russell from Merthyr Town in 1914 the deal hit a snag. The Welshman was prematurely bald to such an extent that Plymouth's secretary/manager Bob Jack insisted upon seeing his birth certificate before he would complete the deal. Bald or not Russell went on to make 376 appearances for Argyle and won another 20 Welsh caps.

HOT SHOTS...

The quickest League goal on record was scored by Bradford's Jim Fryatt against Tranmere Rovers on 25th April, 1964. According to Referee R.J. Simon Fryatt had the ball in the net just four seconds after the kick-off.

Pat Kruse of Torquay United holds the unwanted record of having scored the quickest own goal. He gave opponents Cambridge United a 1-0 lead six seconds after play had commenced on January 3rd 1977.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

First of all let me introduce myself. My name is Stuart Latham I work on various aspects around Wokingham Town Football Club who play in the Bergeir Isthmian League. I also work for Kingsmead Athenian League side Chalfont St. Peter. I was introduced to the English non-League scene after a couple of seasons as Alloa Athletic's programme editor.

HAPPY WANDERERS

Visiting grounds can become costly if a football fanatic does it every week but some go — not for the football, but to say that they have been at that ground. And they can boast many a tale about what happened on their travels.

Men like Mick Burt (South London), Alan Wiggins (Hampshire), Peter Burin (North London), Tony Perriwinkle-Smith (Derbyshire), Tony Incenzo (North London) and Stuart Ashby (Humberside) have between them visited over 3,000 grounds. They are all members of the '92 Club' which means they have visited all the League grounds in England (93 if you include Berwick Rangers). After visiting the Football League grounds most are content to sit back, satisfied with their feat. Others, like the above start on the Scottish League clubs and English non-League clubs.

Tony Incenzo, who is only 18 has visited all the Football League grounds and has just completed half the Scottish League clubs whilst on a month's holiday north of the border. Tony and I are good friends and we went to several matches together. I arranged for him to travel on the team coach to watch Forfar play Alloa Athletic in the League Cup. We stopped off in Forfar for a meal in a local hotel we use every season. We got into the dining room and he was mistaken for a player and was fairly 'chuffed' at this.

Tony travels around the clubs every other week, for being an avid Queens Park Rangers supporter he goes to all their home matches. I was his guest the other week when Q.P.R. played at home to Blackburn and thoroughly enjoyed myself. He now goes around the Bergeir Isthmian League clubs and has visited about ¼ of them.

He rates Manchester United's Old Trafford as the best Football League ground he has visited and puts Southern League Bedford Town's facilities at the top of his non-League list. Aberdeen are the best in Scotland and Enfield and Walthamstow Avenue are the best Isthmian League grounds he has visited.

Clubs he has still to visit in the Isthmian League are clubs like Second Division Hungerford Town whom I saw play Wokingham Town on 6th October at Wokingham for the First Round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. Hungerford started well and were 3-0 up after

quarter of an hour. Wokingham fought back to 3-3 before Hungerford capitalised on a defensive mistake to score their fourth goal with three minutes to go. Not the best way to win, but Hungerford treated the supporters to an entertaining match and were on the whole worthy winners.

Wokingham's programme was adjudged the best Isthmian League programme last season and are keeping up the standard this season. They issued a decent programme for the mid-week game in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup — most clubs if they would bother to issue a programme for such a match, especially in midweek would issue a depleted programme or a single sheet.

Last season the Wirral Programme Club ran a national survey. Out of 513 non-League programmes entered Wokingham Town came seventh whilst the top two clubs are clubs which use Duplex Litho's 'On Target' insert. Perhaps this could be a pointer for other non-League clubs looking to improve their programme.



The top ten were:- 1. Boston United; 2. Kidderminster Harriers; 3. Three Bridges; 4. Barnet; 5. Scarborough; 6. Port of Bristol; 7. Wokingham Town; 8. Farnborough Town; 9. Oxford City; 10. Runcorn and Highgate.

ASA HARTFORD- DEFIED THE MEDICS

It was a soccer sensation of the age. The year was 1971 and Leeds United under Don Revie had already earned themselves the reputation for being one of the most feared footballing machines in Europe.

They needed one young midfield signing of high quality to give them vital added strength in their already high-standard squad, and their attention turned to the Midlands.

At The Hawthorns, Asa Hartford was turning it on match after match. It didn't take Revie long to make a bid for the Scot, then only 21.

The fee was £170,000 — a considerable sum in 1971, mark you — but that's when all the wheeling and dealing suddenly came to an abrupt halt. For the doctors, going through the routine medical routine, found what they described as a heart murmur.

The stories about Asa's 'hole in the heart' condition were front page headlines for days afterwards. The deal was called off and a bitterly disappointed and shocked Hartford went back to West Bromwich and to his consoling team-mates.

But that's when, not for the first time in soccer history (Stan Mortensen was a classic case in question) a footballer proved the doctors' caution unjustified.

Hartford, far from being troubled by his apparent heart condition, went on from strength to strength and only five months after those doctors had made those gloomy findings, he won his first full Scottish international cap!

Up to the start of this season he had collected a total of 42 and considering there was a four year gap between 1972 and 1976 when he wasn't called up by his country, that's good going in the international field.

Almost three years after the Leeds examination, Manchester City were glad to fork out £225,000 for the barrel-chested performer after he had made well over 200 League appearances for the Baggies.

That was the start of an exciting period for Hartford. Maine Road took to him and he to it, and it was something of a surprise when Nottingham Forest snapped him up.

It was one of the shortest big-money transfer stays on record, and a total disaster for both the player and his manager Brian Clough. From the outset, Hartford and Forest just weren't compatible and he played only three times in the first team.



But up at Goodison, manager Gordon Lee was watching developments and moved in swiftly. So Hartford was back north-west in double-quick time and has been there ever since, playing a vital part in the midfield Everton operation, and further enhancing his international reputation.

If Scotland make it to Spain '82, Hartford will be an important cog in Jock Stein's machinery.

Why Asa? The answer is not tied up with Black Country folk lore as many suppose.

The strange truth is that his father was a devoted fan of singer Al Jolson, whose real name was Asa Yoelson. Hence his unusual Christian name....

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Jim Montgomery could count himself unlucky. Nearly 600 league games for his native Sunderland and half a dozen Under 23 international caps were all he had to show for his loyalty and consistency, but the ultimate reward of playing for England was denied him by the presence of the great Gordon Banks.

By now Montgomery, with his mop of curly hair, would have been forgotten had it not been for one sensational save at Wembley's great arena which is still talked about today and which must rank amongst the most brilliant ever seen, even at Wembley.

The occasion was the 1973 F.A. Cup final between Second Division Sunderland and the holders and red-hot favourites, Leeds United. Few outside Wearside gave Sunderland a chance.

But the F.A. Cup final is like no other game as Revie's battle-hardened men soon discovered.

Leeds were packed with star names and internationals but men like Dick Malone, thought to be a weakness in the Sunderland line-up, revelled in the occasion and grew in confidence.

Montgomery had hardly been forced into a serious save by the time Sunderland miraculously took the lead, to the massive delight of their red and white bedecked fans on the Wembley terraces.

A corner was not cleared properly and Ian Porterfield, never a prolific scorer, pounced to place Sunderland in front. Leeds could scarcely believe it.

With the humiliating prospect of defeat by a Second Division side looming, Leeds summoned all their last reserves of experience and courage in a desperate last bid to avert disaster.

Urged on by Billy Bremner, Sunderland at last began to wilt as the ultimate prize came tantalisingly closer to their grasp. Leeds sensed an equaliser and it was then that Montgomery tasted his sweet moment of glory.

Peter Lorimer, that most fearsome striker of a ball, unleashed a special. The crowd were already on their feet, yelling "Goal!" when Montgomery dived to somehow divert the ball over the bar.

Leeds players held their heads in disbelief, the Sunderland players were just as staggered and the crowd gave him a tumultuous ovation. Only Banks with his



Don Revie

legendary save from Pele had equalled it for sheer importance alone.

Leeds never recovered and soon little Bobby Kerr was holding the cup aloft. The glory, though, belonged to Montgomery; it was his miraculous intervention which did as much as anything to win it for the success-starved fanatics of the North East.

Amid the celebratory champagne bubbles, Sunderland's players were probably left little time to consider the irony of their achievement.

It had taken them replays in the third, fourth and fifth rounds to get them through and little Reading came desperately close themselves to inflicting on Sunderland a giant-killing act of their own in the fourth round when Sunderland escaped from Elm Park with a lucky draw.

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QUIZ CORNER



DO YOU KNOW No.9

46. In which round were Liverpool knocked out of the 1979-80 European Cup?
47. What in the name of Real Madrid's stadium?
48. Two English clubs met in the final of the 1971-72 UEFA Cup. Spurs won it, but who did they beat?
49. Liverpool have appeared in the final of

all three major European competitions. Which of the three have they not yet won?

50. How many times have English clubs won the European Champions Cup?
51. How many times have English clubs won the European Cup Winners Cup?
52. How many times have English clubs won the UEFA and Fairs Cups?
53. Of the current First Division clubs which club has the smallest attendance limit?

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FRANK
STAPLETON

PROFILE



If you asked a cross-section of football fans who they would nominate as the best centre-forward in the British Isles, the chances are that they would not immediately unhesitatingly plump for Frank Stapleton.

Yet if that same question were directed towards the professionals — the managers, coaches and players — it's a fair bet that he would get the vote.

The reason for this apparent anomaly really boils down to personality. For if Stapleton were a flamboyant, extrovert type he'd be much more in the headlines.

But his quiet, rather shy manner means he is often unnoticed, when his opponents and those watchers who know their football, also know full well that he is a formidable player and a manager's dream.

Stapleton does his job with the minimum of fuss and the maximum of efficiency. Even in an era of crazy transfer fees, Arsenal's valuation of him at £2 million spoke volumes for their rating of the man who has now left the marble halls of Highbury for the glamour of a club striving fitfully to recapture former glories — Manchester United.

Stapleton is now 25 and nearing his peak as an intelligent leader of the line and snapper up of goals from all angles.

His work-rate is phenomenal, his temperament ideal (he takes the hardest knocks without showing signs of aggravation) and can squeeze goals in from the tightest of positions.

His former coach Don How, who has seen and worked with some of the best centre-forwards of the last 30 years including people like Ronnie Allen, Derek Kevan, Malcolm Macdonald and so on, rates him Europe's top No. 9.

He first made observers sit up in 1976-77 when he hit 13 goals in his first full season of League football with Arsenal. The first time he got an Eire cap he scored — against Turkey late in 1976 — and he is, not surprisingly, an automatic choice for his country.

Had he been an Englishman or a Scot, I fancy the situation would have been exactly the same — his would be the first name the England boss would pencil in.

Ron Atkinson, who had to fork out £1.1 million for the Irishman after the Transfer Tribunal would not accept Arsenal's valuation and trimmed it down almost in half, is hoping the partnership of Gary Birtles and Stapleton will give United the impetus the team desperately needs. Goodness knows the club have spent enough on this front-line pair in the hope that it will work.

There isn't a centre-half in the top echelon who doesn't heave a sigh of relief when the afternoon passes and Stapleton heads out of the ground.

He's very hard to mark because he is so strong and shields the ball so expertly. This can lead to extreme frustration on the part of his marker, but no matter what physical punishment the Irishman endures, he takes it all with a placid resignation that makes you wish all his fellow-players would do likewise.

Stapleton will probably turn out in retrospect to be the most worthwhile signing they have made in recent years, for not only are class centre-forwards at a premium, his unselfish nature and impressive application towards teamwork means that his United colleagues will also benefit from that quality as well as his goalscoring ability.

If United are to be the force they were, you can be sure that one of the major reasons will be Stapleton.

He may not have the charisma, but his 100 per cent professional application is surely worth far more to his manager than anything of the prima donna variety, however skilful.

2 Men In The News



CHARLIE GEORGE. Could he be the man to bring the fans back to Highbury?



TREVOR FRANCIS. Almost set for a comeback in a specially arranged match for Manchester City.

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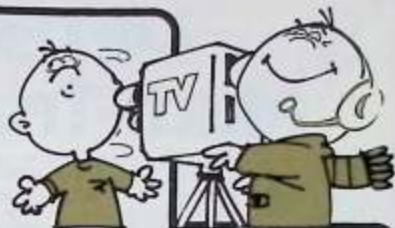
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SIMON INGLIS

light hearted look at Football



What are the signs of growing old? Some say losing your hair, losing your memory, losing your bifocals. I say the moment you know you're past it is when you finally admit to yourself that you're not going to be a professional footballer. This realisation hit me several years ago when I found myself idolising a couple of players in my favourite team, (who I'd followed since I was eight and therefore presumed that its players would always be older than me) both a couple of years my junior.



George Best

So there I was on the terraces, horribly aware for the first time in my life that I wouldn't be a soccer star. Then you get to the stage when it's not just the youngsters in the team who are your juniors, but that young Johnny, who you remember making his first team debut — remember how his shorts seemed too big and the newspapers called him "raw" — is now about to hang up his boots, after a long and eventful career.

If you're really old you might even recall England getting through to the World Cup.

I was reminded of these thoughts by the prospect of seeing George Best play again, perhaps for Manchester United or Northern Ireland. The former was merely a stunt to promote Best's new book, but the second? It raises all kinds of possibilities.

For instance, we heard recently that Nobby Stiles was on the dole. Now, isn't there a club somewhere near the foot of the lower divisions who could use his tenacity? His ex-England team-mate, Alan Ball came back from an unfortunate dabble in management and is still one of Southampton's best players.



Dennis Law

What about Jimmy Greaves? He never used to run much anyway. And Dennis Law? I'd give him a game any day.

Alright then, I'll admit it. It's not such a good idea after all. It's just that I still can't quite get used to the fact that I'll never get to score the winning goal at Wembley. You know, I even sit down for matches now. Now that really is getting old.

PETER WITHE ~ Much-Travelled Striker

by Derek Henderson

Some players — fortunately for them — stay with one club all their playing life and achieve fame and fortune without ever having to think of moving elsewhere to do so. Bobby Charlton is a case in point....

Others, like Peter Withe, seem always to be on the move until one day they finally settle and prosper — like a bee buzzing for the pollon until finally settling on the flower that satisfies.

Peter has now found a rapport with Aston Villa — both the fans and his fellow-players — that he only found in separate entities in his previous clubs.

The big centre-forward, standing 6ft 2in and 12 stone in his stockinged feet, knows what it is to travel.

He tried his hand with Southport and Barrow with only four League appearances to show for the experiences — hardly an illuminating introduction to an erstwhile career in the toughest and most combative football league in the world.

He had not found an opening in League soccer until he was 20 and two years elapsed, during which he had a spell with the South African club Arcadia Shepherds, before another centre-forward, Derek Dougan crossed his path.

He played alongside Withe for the South African team and mentioned his name to his old club Wolves.

So Withe arrived at Molineux where he made only 17 League appearances before moving the short distance to Birmingham City. In between he was on his nomadic way again, appearing in a handful of games for Portland Timbers.

It seems strange at this juncture to accept that Peter Withe is now enjoying only his third full season of First Division soccer!

The first was with Nottingham Forest in 1977-78, and the second was last season when he was the scourge of First Division centre halves, wreaking havoc in a newly-formed partnership with Gary Shaw, 10 years his junior, which threatens to be one of the club's most rewarding for years.

This new-found fame earned him his first England cap at the unlikely age of 29, proving once again that your country can still call you up well beyond the accepted 'peak' of around 25 or 26 if you're delivering the goods.

And what a first game for anyone — against Brazil which Withe marked with an effort against a post in the dying moments which was centimetres away from being the most dramatic equaliser he has ever scored!

Those travels have helped to make Withe a more complete player now than he has ever been. It included a spell with Newcastle on Tyneside where they know their football and revere their formidably-built centre-forwards (eg. Jackie Milburn, Malcolm Macdonald).

At one time Withe was regarded as little more than an orthodox, muscular target man. He is very much more than that now, an unselfish striker who is always dangerous, but not greedy and ever happy to provide the opening for someone better-placed.

He might have chosen Everton instead of Villa. But the



Peter Withe

lure of the Midland club where you can almost feel the tradition, was too much.

They had to fork out a cool half-million for him — it constituted a club record — but you won't get Ron Saunders admitting it was anything other than worth every penny.

As far as goals are concerned, Villa will never be Withe-out while Peter is around!

THE A TO Z OF CREWE

League Division 2, that is where the league career of Crewe Alexandra began way back in 1892 and despite the many difficulties which have arisen in the intervening years this club is still a member of the Football League and playing in Division Four.

There will be those who will remember the wartime visits of Liverpool to Gresty Road boasting such players as Billy Liddell and Nieuwenhuis amongst their numbers. In post war years they have only paid one more visit in a pre-season friendly game but when reverting back to those days in Division 2 we first came into contact with them on 24th December in the away game, losing 2-0 and on the 28th December in the home game they also won 5-0, in the 28th December in the home game they also won 5-0. In the following season Liverpool again completed the double 6-1 at Liverpool and 7-0 at Crewe.

Two other defunct teams from that time were Loughborough Town who came to Crewe in April, 1896 winning 2-1 and winning their home game 4-1 two weeks later, and there was also Leicester Fosse in 1894/95 and 1895/96. We did fare a little better in those encounters for in the home games they both ended in draws 2-2 and 1-1 but losing the away games 4-0 and 4-1. Lincoln City figure prominently in our history for the teams beginning with L, they have been our most frequent visitors. At least in their

visits we can claim some creditable victories such as the 8-1 win in season 1931/32 and the 7-0 win on 18th March, 1966. We were winning 6-0 at half time, Luton Town came to Gresty Road in season 1967/68 and provided Crewe won, they would achieve promotion once again. In an exciting game they eventually ran out 2-1 winners.

So now to some of the players, and what a choice starting with L. Lunn in season 1923/24 to Larry Lindsay, Ken Linstrem, Alf Lees who came from New Brighton and filled the No. 5 spot so admirably for five seasons, Eddie Lyons, Derek Leaver, Bill Luke with his one appearance or Gerry Lowry who was our No.1 'keeper for the first four games of the 1958/59 season letting in a bagful. When it comes to the best known how about Bert Llewellyn, small for a centre forward but 50 goals in 96 League games speaks for itself or there was Frank Lord, now Manager of Hereford United with 67 League goals in 115 games. We now come to that full back partnership, probably the best that Crewe have ever had, Lowry and Leigh. Peter Leigh came to Crewe from Manchester City and had ten seasons here before injury finally ended his career. Tommy Lowry came here from Anfield and he too finally gave up through injury. When you look for that quality - loyalty - then those last two are an example that will take some equalling, never mind surpassing.



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LANCS LEAGUE

1981			
Aug 28	WIGAN ATHLETIC "A"		H 3-4
Sept 5	Burnley "A"		A 0-0
Sept 10	Wigan A.Y.C.		A 0-1
Sept 12	PRESTON NORTH END "B" (Knock out)	.....	H 0-1
Sept 13	Liverpool "B"	.....	A 1-1
Oct 3	Bury "A"	.....	A 2-4
Oct 10	Blackpool "A"	.....	A 2-6
Oct 17	SOUTHPORT "A"	.....	H post.
Oct 17	Manchester City "A"	.....	A 2-4
Nov 7	BURNLEY "A"	.....	A 1-0
Nov 14	Formby "A"	.....	A post.
Nov 20	Southport "A"	.....	A post.
Dec 6	OLDHAM ATHLETIC "B"	.....	H 1-0
Dec 19	BURY "A"	.....	H 1-0
1982			
Jan 9	MANCHESTER UNITED "B"	.....	H 1-1
Jan 16	Preston N.E. "B"	.....	A 1-1
Jan 23	Oldham Athletic "B"	.....	A 1-0
Jan 26	FORMBY "A"	.....	H 1-1
Feb 6	CHORLEY "A"	.....	H 1-1
Feb 13	Chorley "A"	.....	A 1-1
Feb 20	BLACKBURN ROVERS "A"	.....	H 1-1
Feb 27	BLACKBURN ROVERS "A"	.....	A 1-1
Mar 6	Manchester United "B"	.....	A 1-1
Mar 13	Blackburn Rovers "A"	.....	A 1-1
Mar 20	LIVERPOOL "B"	.....	H 1-1
Apr 3	PRESTON NORTH END "B"	.....	H 1-1
Apr 10	MANCHESTER CITY "A"	.....	H 1-1
Apr 17	Wigan Athletic "A"	.....	A 1-1



ALEX ACTION

Photos by Robert Spivack

1. Memories of warmer days — the away match at Blackpool.



2. Alan Ricketts beaten by the Blackpool 'keeper.



FIXTURES

1987

Aug 29	A. C. C. Bourne-mouth	A	0-2
Sept 2	BRISTOL ROVERS LC1	H	1-1
Sept 6	TORQUAY UTD	H	0-1
Sept 12	Blackpool	A	0-5
Sept 15	Bristol Rovers LC1 (2L)	A	0-5
Sept 18	ALDERSHOT	H	2-3
Sept 23	BURY	H	1-2
Sept 26	Peterborough Utd.	A	0-3
Sept 29	Sheffield Utd.	A	0-4
Oct 2	PORT VALE	H	0-2
Oct 7	League Cup 2 (1L)		
Oct 10	SCUNTHORPE UTD	H	3-0
Oct 16	Stockport County	A	0-2
Oct 21	ROCHDALE	H	1-2
Oct 24	Mansfield Town	A	1-0
Oct 28	League Cup 2 (2L)		
Oct 31	HALIFAX TOWN	H	0-1
Nov 4	Hartlepool Utd	A	2-1
Nov 8	Northampton Town	A	0-3
Nov 14	DARLINGTON	H	1-0
Nov 21	F.A. Cup 1 Willenhall	A	1-0
Nov 28	YORK CITY	H	1-1
Dec 5	Hull City	A	0-1
Dec 18	Colchester Utd	A	
Dec 21	SCUNTHORPE (FAC 2)	H	
Dec 25	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	
Dec 28	Tranmere Rovers	A	

1982

Jan	2	HEREFORD UTD (3)	H
Jan	9	Torquay United	A
Jan	13	League Cup 5	
Jan	15	BRADFORD CITY	H
Jan	23	A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	H
Jan	31	Aldershot	A
Feb	3	League Cup S.F. 1	
Feb	5	BLACKPOOL	H
Feb	9	Bury (L.C. S.F. 2)	A
Feb	13	Port Vale (5)	A
Feb	19	PETERBOROUGH UTD	H
Feb	28	Scunthorpe Utd	A
Mar	6	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H
Mar	9	Rochdale	A
Mar	13	MANSFIELD T. (LCF)	H
Mar	17	HARTLEPOOL UTD	H
Mar	20	Halifax Town	A
Mar	27	NORTHAMPTON TOWN H	
Apr	4	Derlington (SF)	A
Apr	10	Wigan Athletic	A
Apr	12	TRANMERE ROVERS	H
Apr	17	HULL CITY	H
Apr	24	York City	A
May	1	SHEFFIELD UTD	H
May	5	Bradford City	A
May	8	Hereford Utd	A
May	15	COLCHESTER UTD	H
May	22	F.A. Cup Final	



ALEX KIT SPONSORS

[illegible]

MEET THE REFEREE

ALEX J. HAMIL of Wolverhampton commenced refereeing in 1959 and via local leagues, Midland Combination and West Midland League reached the Football League line and full list in 1973. Refereed the West Midland Cup 1972 and Birmingham Senior Cup 1973 and F.A. Trophy Semi-Final 1978. Also League Cup quarter final Swindon v Arsenal 1986. Lined the Scotland v Ireland International in 1976 and Wales v Ireland in 1978. Married with one son he is a Senior Foreman in Government Workshops and is interested in training and local football competitions.



COMMERCIALLY YOURS

Wigan Athletic, close friends and rivals are our welcome visitors in this typical Yuletide fixture. Still comparative newcomers to the Football League, Wigan have promised much, but have still to realise the potential that has always been evident since their election. It is perhaps notable, that whilst they still boast one of the better average gates in the fourth division, they have in fact lost ground in gate attendances. Up and down the country, the public do not change very much. The average football fan wants success, and anything less is not good enough. Wigan are patently aware of this, and it is obvious that this season they are investing a lot of money on the field in a determined effort to achieve success. Needless to say, this will be putting a tremendous strain on their commercial department. Lotteries, pools, advertising and sponsorship are all suffering from the recession, and consequently funds derived from outside sources are diminishing. Not a happy picture.

A couple of weeks ago, our financial director Mr. N. Hassall showed a brief resume of the income and expenditure of our club. A very significant source of income was that received from the Football League, by way of TV fees, and the various other income such as Cup pools. This amounted to £75,000, a handsome pick up. No doubt non league clubs look at figures like these, and lick their lips. Clubs such as Altrincham would do well to talk to the people who matter at Wigan to find out just how difficult it is to balance the books at League level.

I do not have available copies of the last couple of balance sheets of Wigan before their successful application to the Football League, but I would be very surprised if they were not a lot healthier than the figures produced on the outcome of just their third season in the League. There is no doubt about it, life in League football is very difficult, and these difficulties are amplified when clubs are faced with postponements due to bad weather. Graham Taylor, recently appointed Secretary of the PFA expressed his fears of the possible outcome of a prolonged freeze-up. One or two clubs could go out of business altogether, with the consequence that even more players could be out of a job.

Within the commercial departments of all clubs, we must continue to try to find ways and means of keeping the cash flowing to support the game. This can only be done with your support. We desperately need to increase the number of tickets we sell each week, without a doubt this is the only positive way we can guarantee the survival of our club. So as we are just about to embark upon a new year, let this be our resolve.



BALL DONORS

- Sept 2 BRISTOL ROVERS (LC1) — Mr. T. Williams (Mossfield)
- Sept 6 TORQUAY UNITED — Mr. C. Gilbert, Manager Nationwide Building Society
- Sept 18 ALDERSHOT — Blue Belle, Smallwood, Sandbach
- Sept 23 BURY — Peter Black, White Lion, Weston
- Oct 2 PORT VALE — The Evening Sentinel & Stuart Smith
- Oct 10 SCUNTHORPE — Coppenshul Garage for Datsun
- Oct 21 ROCHDALE — Mr. Latham, Madeley Heath Garage
- Oct 31 HALIFAX — C. Newton, 240 Hungerford Road, Crews, Painters & Decorators
- Nov 14 DARLINGTON — Crews & District F.A.
- Nov 28 YORK CITY — Arthur & Terry Martin
- Dec 12 SCUNTHORPE (FAC 2) — Murray Vernon, Hazington
- Dec 25 WIGAN ATHLETIC — Lawton Tools Ltd., Newcastle Road, Sandbach
- Jan 2 HERFORD — Mrs. Dora Sumner
- Jan 15 BRADFORD CITY — Crown Crockery
- Jan 23 AFC BOURNEMOUTH — Greenall Whitley Ltd.
- Feb 5 BLACKPOOL — Lawton Tools Ltd., Newcastle Rd., Sandbach
- Feb 19 PETERBOROUGH — J.E. Williams & Son, Raleigh Five Star Cycle Dealers, 15 Edleston Road, Crewe
- Mar 6 STOCKPORT COUNTY — National Tyres Ltd. (Derby)
- Mar 13 MANSFIELD — McCosquidie Sports & Social Club
- Mar 17 HARTLEPOOL UNITED — Sandbach Branch Crews Supporters' Assn
- Mar 27 NORTHAMPTON TOWN — Two Right Revs.
- April 12 TRANMERE ROVERS — Lawton Tools Ltd., Newcastle Rd., Sandbach
- April 17 HULL CITY
- May 1 SHEFFIELD UNITED — G. Williams & E. Johnston, Norwich Union
- May 15 COLCHESTER UNITED — Coppenshul Garage for Datsun

UMBRO FLOODLIT LEAGUE

LEAGUE

Sept 7	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	6-1
Sept 14	SHREWSBURY TOWN	H	0-4
Sept 22	Port Vale	A	1-2
Sept 28	WREXHAM	H	0-2
Oct 7	Chester	A	3-3
Oct 13	CHESTER	H	2-1
Oct 20	Wigan Athletic	A	2-7
Oct 27	Shrewsbury Town	A	1-2
Nov 3	PORT VALE	H	5-1
Nov 10	Wrexham	A	1-2

LEAGUE CUP

Dec 1	PORT VALE	H	3-1
Dec 9	Shrewsbury Town	A	post.
Dec 15	WREXHAM	H	post.

1982

Jan 6	Chester	A	
Jan 12	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	
Jan 19	Wigan Athletic	A	
Jan 26	Port Vale	A	
Feb 3	SHREWSBURY TOWN	H	
Feb 9	Wrexham	A	
Feb 16	CHESTER	H	

TEAM CHECK

Crewe Alexandra

Colours: Red Shirts, White Shorts.

- 1 Ken Mulhearn
- 2 Kevin Lewis
- 3 Danny Bowers
- 4 Neil Salathiel
- 5 Bob Scott
- 6 Neil Griffiths
- 7 Sean Haslegrave
- 8 Ian Callaghan
- 9 Alan Ricketts
- 10 Mark Palios
- 11 Phil Williams
- 12

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LINESMEN:
B.K. COULDREY (Dudley)
J.F. PARDOE (Kidderminster)



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Wigan Athletic

Colours: Blue and White stripes.

- 1 Roy Tunks
- 2 John McMahon
- 3 David Glenn
- 4 Mark Wignall
- 5 Les Bradd
- 6 Colin Methven
- 7 Kevin Sheldon
- 8 Geoff Barrow
- 9 Mike Quinn
- 10 Peter Houghton
- 11 Clive Evans
- 12 Jeff Wright

MATCH BALL DONOR

LAWTON TOOLS LTD.,
Newcastle Road,
Sandbach.